

Student power: Utilising student resourced services to meet the growing demand for outpatient speech pathology services

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Background

- Small speech pathology team
- Increased the demand for services
- Staffing levels are static
- Outpatient waiting lists are growing

What is our acute hospital core business?

How can we deliver our services differently?



Solution

Launch of the joint Mater/Australian Catholic University outpatient clinic

New fluency clinic launches

On 22 August, Mater Speech Pathology and Audiology Department, together with Australian Catholic University Speech Pathology, launched the Joint Mater and Australian Catholic University (ACU) Fluency Clinic to provide assistance to patients with fluency (stuttering) disorder.

The Mater-ACU clinic is the first student-resourced fluency clinic in a Brisbane hospital setting, and will be co-ordinated by an educator provided by ACU.

A pilot clinic will be run this semester, during which two to four students working in the clinic at any one time will deliver individual, group and telehealth sessions to people who stutter.

The fluency clinic was launched at an afternoon tea attended by Mater speech pathologists, representatives from ACU and the Speak Easy Association, students and patients.



Amanda Lyons, Jessie Cutler, Julia Oliver and Brittany Doyle.

Outcomes to date

Service

Significantly reduced waiting lists for clinics

All referrals are seen within recommended timeframes

Student resourced clinics are 'business as usual'

Students

100% of students were satisfied with the structure and learning opportunities available during this placement

Patients

100% of patients would recommend the service

50% of patients would rather be treated by a Speech Pathologist

